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The Romance of Modern Manufacture. By CHARLES R. GIBSON. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1910. 8vo, pp. xv+320. $1.50.

This marks another addition to the number of books devoted to what is called the "romance" of industry, the rapid increase of which seems to denote a growing interest on the part of the public in the mechanism of the industrial world. We must confess, however, that in the case of the book before us the title has led to disappointment. The volume is in fact a description of the way in which a large number of the more important modern machines, such as those used in spinning, weaving, knitting, sewing, shoe-making, printing, paper-making, the manufacture of iron and steel, locomotives, watches, etc., came to be evolved. These processes and the various steps which led up to their perfection are simply but carefully described, and further elucidated by the aid of diagrams and pictures. Occasional anecdote and story somewhat lighten the tale but it is largely devoted to rather matter-of-fact mechanical description. One cannot but regret this too exclusive attention to technical detail and the absence of a spirit of enthusiasm for the subject—for it is one of rare possibilities—that would carry one along in open-eyed amazement that such things have a place in the world of reality.

Factory Legislation in Maine. By E. STAGG WHITIN. Columbia University Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Vol. XXXIII, No. I. New York: Columbia University, 1908. 8vo, pp. 145. $1.00.

This is one of a number of monographs dealing with the history of factory and labor legislation in the several states, and is comparable in many respects with the historical account of *Factory Legislation in Rhode Island,* by John Ker Towles, published by the American Economic Association last year; and with the *History of Factory Legislation* in Pennsylvania, by J. Lynn Barnard, published by the University of Pennsylvania in 1907. Similar monographic studies have been made of New York and Massachusetts labor legislation. The scope of Mr. Whitin's study extends somewhat beyond the subject of factory legislation strictly construed, and embraces legislation relating to "commercial, industrial, social, educational, and sanitary conditions of laboring people." The author gives not only a concise statement of the historical development of such legislation, but an account of the agencies established for its enforcement, and of the effectiveness with which these agencies have performed their function. He has thus extended his investigations beyond the mere text of the law, and has gathered information from many sources as to practical consequences. Much of the legislation relates to the employment of women and children; but such topics as the regulation of wages and hours of labor, factory inspection, arbitration, and employers' liability are also included. J. C.